

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Patent Office for the careful attention accorded this application and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the Amendment above and remarks set forth below.

In the Office Action dated June 23, 2003, the Examiner has indicated that claims 5-7, 11 and 14 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

In response to the Office Action, Applicants have canceled Claims 2-4, 8-10, 12 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amended Claims 1, 5-7, 11 and 14 in order to more clearly define over the prior art of record, and more particularly point out and distinctively claim the novel features of the present invention. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications based on the canceled claims.

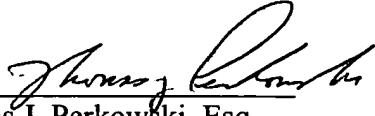
Applicants have amended the Specification to correct errors of a typographical nature. Applicants also file herewith an Information Disclosure Statement and 1449 Form.

In view, therefore, of the Amendment and remarks set forth above, the present invention defined by pending Claims 1, 5-7, 11 and 14 is firmly believed to be neither anticipated by, nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art of record, and that the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 23, 2003

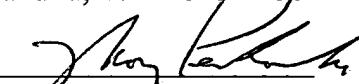


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Date: October 23, 2003